

Part II.—Reviews.

From my African Notebook. By ALBERT SCHWEITZER (trans. Mrs. C. E. B. RUSSELL). London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. Pp. 132. Price 5s.

An attractive little book, by a well-known author, telling of his experiences as a hospital physician in Gabon. The book is anecdotic and is written with a keen sense of humour. Interesting side-lights are cast on Trader Horn, the site of whose home is now occupied by the hospital at Lambaréné. The author also tells us something of the indigent population, their character traits, folklore and customs. Dr. Schweitzer's notebook has not the remotest bearing upon psychiatric problems.

S. M. COLEMAN.

Outline of Psychiatric Case-study. By PAUL W. PREU, M.D. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1939. Pp. xiv + 140. Price \$1.85.

The student anxious to perfect his psychiatric history-taking and case-study should find this book a most useful guide. The general lay-out differs little from that of Cheney's *Psychiatric Examination*, but is worked out in much more detail. On the other hand, there are no separate chapters on the method of investigation for unco-operative patients or children; what advice the author has to give must be searched for in the text. The physical examination apart, the form is largely that of a questionnaire. There are many valuable hints as to how to put questions to evasive paraphrenics or sensitive relations. In fact if the questionnaire has been followed out conscientiously, it can be said with conviction that it is not for want of asking if the physician is still unable to say why his patient has fallen ill. No stone is left unturned; even the malevolent effect of possible lodgers is gone into in some detail! The advocate of analysis might suggest that, as a routine, the turning of stones over such a wide area is both time-consuming and irrelevant. He might advise that time would be better spent if the field were narrowed and the digging deeper. Such methods of psychiatric investigation as word and free association, dream analysis and play interpretation are not so much as mentioned.

S. M. COLEMAN.

Compendium of Infantile Neuro-Psychiatry [Précis de neuro-psychiatrie Infantile]. By G. ROBIN. Paris: G. Doin & Co., 1939. Pp. 311. Price 60 frs.

This broad survey, covering the whole range of mental disorder as it occurs in children, is of exceptional merit. There are comparatively few psychiatric treatises devoted solely to children; for this reason alone such a work is especially welcome. The author's power of description and delineation of clinical types is of a very high order. There are, besides, verbatim quotations from leading psychiatric opinion in France upon the many problems raised. The references are rather unsystematically arranged; they may be found incorporated within the text, as a footnote or listed at the end of a chapter or section.

The first section deals with abnormal child types, their clinical characteristics and the lines upon which they should be treated. Here are included the emotionally unstable, the inattentive and distractible, the cyclothymic,